

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 /078 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3677

NOFORN

FORNEA/IRN

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: SITUATION OF IRAQI KURDS IN IRAN

REF: (A) TEHRAN 1658, (B) STATE 88938

1. REF A IS STILL GOOD DESCRIPTION OF IRAQI KURDS SITUATION IN
IRAN. FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL ELABORATION GLEENED FROM IRANIAN
MFA, KURDISH OFFICIALS AND UNHCR REP LESLIE GOODYEAR (PROTECT
ALL).

2. KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY (KDP) LEADERSHIP BELIEVES GOI
ATTITUDE HAS IMPROVED OVER PAST YEAR. ABOUT SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT
OF REMAINING 30,000 IRAQI KURDS HAVE PERMANENT JOBS. REST WORK
PART-TIME BUT ARE NOT FULLY SETTLED. BULK OF LATTER CATEGORY
ARE NOMADS OR PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD "SOME DIFFICULTIES", MAKING
ADJUSTMENT FROM FIGHTING SITUATION. EVEN KDP LEADERS DO NOT
ARGUE THAT ALL OF THESE WOULD SETTLE DOWN UNDER BEST OF
CIRCUMSTANCES. GOI IS MAKING EFFORT TO INTEGRATE THESE
KURDS AND THE SITUATION IS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY TO BOTH
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SIDES. NO FORMAL GOI SETTLEMENT PROGRAM NOW EXISTS, BUT
JOINT GOI-KURD COMMITTEE REMAINS IN OPERATION TO HANDLE
PROBLEMS, INCLUDING REFUGEE OUTPROCESSING TO THIRD COUNTRIES.
GOODYEAR SAYS SYSTEM WORKS WELL.

3. KDP REPS HERE INDICATE SOME OF THEIR NUMBER HAVE RETURNED
TO IRAQ OVER PAST SIX MONTHS AND ARE READY TO SKIRMISH IF

NECESSARY (EMBASSY COMMENT: KDP LEADERSHIP PLAYING CAGEY ON ACTUAL FIGHTING ROLE OF IRAQI KURDS WHO HAVE RETURNED FROM IRAN BECAUSE GOI BEGAN TIGHTENING OF BORDER CONTROLS ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO. KURDS WHO TRY TO SNEAK ACROSS, IF CAUGHT, ARE TURNED BACK).

4. BASIC GOI ATTITUDE TOWARD REFUGEE PROBLEM HAS BEEN ONE OF ASSISTANCE WITHIN LIMITS. GOI WAS OVERWHELMED BY INFLUX OF SOME 150,000 KURDS AND IS PLEASED (AND RELIEVED) TO SEE TOTAL DOWN TO MANAGEABLE NUMBER, MANY OF WHOM ARE CONTRIBUTING DIRECTLY TO IRAN'S DEVELOPMENT. GOI HAS INSISTED KURDS RESETTLE WHERE JOBS ARE AVAILABLE (MOST IRANIAN CITIES) AND DOES NOT ALLOW IRAQI KURDS TO SETTLE IN FOUR BORDER PROVINCES TOUCHING IRAQ. KURDS UNDERSTAND THESE GROUND RULES AND ALSO FACT THAT GOI MAINTAINING DIPLOMATICALLY CORRECT STANCE ON ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSINGS IN VIEW OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH IRAQ SINCE ALGIERS ACCORDS. IN LINE WITH ITS CONCERN THAT KURDS NOT DISRUPT IMPROVING IRAN-IRAQ RELATIONS, KURDS BELIEVE IRANIAN SECURITY FORCES KEEP GENERAL EYE ON KDP LEADERSHIP BUT DO NOT RPT NOT SUBJECT OTHER REFUGEES TO SURVEILLANCE UNLESS THEY COME TO THEIR ATTENTION ON OTHER GROUNDS. (EMBASSY COMMENT: WE HAVE NO INFORMATION EITHER WAY.)

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: KURDISH SITUATION IN IRAN APPEARS TO EMBASSY REPORTING OFFICERS TO BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE MASS INFLUX OF REFUGEES AFTER 1975 KURDISH REBEL COLLAPSE. KDP LEADERSHIP COMMENTS TO US SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT MORE ASTUTE POLITICOS IN MOVEMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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BELIEVE THEY MAY REVIVE SOME OF THEIR FLAGGING POLITICAL FORTUNES BY APPEALING VIA NEW ADMINISTRATION'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR RENEWED POLITICAL SUPPORT. ASSUME WE WILL WANT TO WALK VERY CAREFULLY THROUGH ANY SUCH MINE FIELD.
MIKLOS

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Message Attributes

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